

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3500

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11881

NESCO

FOR USNATCOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: OPENING OF UNESCO GC GENERAL DEBATE, OCTOBER 28, 1976

1. GENERAL DEBATE BEGAN WITH STATEMENTS BY BENIN, NIGERIA, OMAN, INDONESIA, KUWAIT, SWEDEN, FRG, MALTA, BANGLADESH, EQUADOR, SURINAM AND MOROCCO.
2. TONE OF DEBATE MODERATE WITH EXCEPTION KUWAIT, DELIVERING A HARSH STRIDENT ANTI-ISRAEL POLITICAL STATEMENT. KUWAIT DEL URGED SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLES RETURNING TO THEIR "RIGHTFUL HOMELAND", AND ASKED UNESCO TO GUARD AGAINST FURTHER ISRAEL EFFORTS TO "CHANGE" THE HOLY CITY. STATEMENT LABELS ISRAEL A "ZIONIST, RACIST STATE," AND ASKS UNESCO TO ASSUME TOTAL CONTROL OVER EDUCATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
3. SWEDEN DELIVERED A STRONG STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND A FREE PRESS, CONDEMNING CENSORSHIP IN ANY FORM AND CALLING THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE ESSENTIAL TO

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FREEDOM.

4. THE FRG ALSO ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, REMINDING GC THAT PROMOTION OF "FREE FLOW" ENTRUSTED TO UNESCO IN ITS CONSTITUTION. FRG PLEDGED HELP TO RHID WORLD IN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN NEWS-GATHERING AND RECORDING CAPABILITY (PROVIDING THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.) SURINAM ALSO SPOKE OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS FUNDAMENTAL TO A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY.

5. ECUADOR'S GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH INCLUDED A WELL-EXPRESSED INTERPRETATION OF THE "NEW ECONOMIC ORDERR", CALLING FOR CLOSER REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF UNESCO'S WORK. ECUADOR DEFINED THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER IN TERMS OF TRAINING OF RESEARCHERS IN ADULT EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING THE FREE FLOW OF IDEAS), PLANNING, TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND RURAL EDUCATION.

6. AFRICAN INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (WITHOUT PRESSURE FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) WERE THEMATIC THROUGHOUT THE DEBATE TOGETHER WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY ISSUE REFERENCES, REPEAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF KUWAIT DEBATE, WAS LOW-KEYED AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN TONE. MOROCCO MADE NO MENTION OF ISRAEL OR MASS COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES. MARSHALL

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